

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method for associating portable communication devices with a predetermined broadcast, the method comprising:

providing portable communication devices preset to receive the predetermined broadcast; and

5 distributing the preset communication devices to individuals for receiving the predetermined broadcast.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein the predetermined broadcast has an associated broadcast time period, the method further comprising:

preventing operation of the communication devices during time periods other than the broadcast time period.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein the portable communication devices have indicia of the predetermined broadcast.

4. The method of claim 1 wherein the portable communication devices are fixedly set to receive only the predetermined broadcast.

5. The method of claim 1 further comprising preventing an individual being distributed the communication device from resetting the communication device to another broadcast.

6. The method of claim 1 wherein the predetermined broadcast is associated with an event and the communication devices are distributed along with tickets of the event.

7. The method of claim 1 wherein the predetermined broadcast is an event and the communication devices are distributed upon entry to the event.

8. The method of claim 1 wherein the broadcast is associated with an event and the communication device has indicia of the event.

9. The method of claim 1 wherein the communication device has indicia of an advertiser of the broadcast.

10. The method of claim 1 further comprising:  
each portable communication device transmitting a use signal when operating; and  
receiving the use signals for the operating communication devices to determine a number of the operating units.

11. A portable radio associated with a predetermined broadcast, the radio comprising:

a receiver for receiving the predetermined broadcast, the receiver preset to receive the predetermined broadcast; and

a speaker for producing audio signals of the received predetermined broadcast.

12. The radio of claim 11 wherein the radio has indicia of the predetermined broadcast.

13. The radio of claim 11 wherein the radio receiver comprises a variable frequency tuner which is set to the frequency of the predetermined broadcast during manufacture.

14. The radio of claim 11 further comprising a rechargeable battery for supplying power to the radio.

15. The radio of claim 11 further comprising an input to allow a received frequency of the radio to be changed.

16. The radio of claim 15 wherein the input is a female adapter.

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17. A portable communication device associated with a predetermined broadcast, the device comprising:

a receiver for receiving the predetermined broadcast, the receiver preset to receive the predetermined broadcast; and

a speaker for producing audio signals of the received predetermined broadcast.

18. The device of claim 17 further comprising indicia of the predetermined broadcast.

19. The device of claim 17 further comprising indicia of an advertiser associated with the predetermined broadcast.

20. The device of claim 17 further comprising a battery for powering components of the device and a timer switch for selectively coupling the battery to the components and a timer; wherein the timer prevents operation of the radio by effectively decoupling the battery from the components using the timer switch.

21. The device of claim 17 wherein the receiver is fixedly set to receive the predetermined broadcast.

22. The device of claim 17 wherein the predetermined broadcast is broadcast in a digital format and the receiver is a digital receiver.

23. The device of claim 17 wherein the device is a radio and the predetermined broadcast is of a predetermined radio station and the receiver is preset to the predetermined radio station.

24. The device of claim 17 wherein the portable communication device is fixedly set to receive only the predetermined broadcast.

25. The device of claim 17 wherein the broadcast has an associated broadcast time period and the device further comprising a timer and an associated switch for preventing operation of the communication device during time periods other than the associated broadcast time period.

26. The device of claim 17 having an off state and on states with a plurality of differing volumes, the device having a button for switching between the states.

27. The device of claim 17 having an off state and on states with a plurality of differing volumes, the device having a switch for switching between the states.

28. The device of claim 17 further comprising a rechargeable battery for powering components of the device.

29. A portable radio comprising:  
a speaker configured to direct sounds towards an ear canal of a listener's ear; and

a housing fixedly connected to the speaker, the housing configured to be substantially supported by a pinna of the listener's ear and containing the radio receiver.

30. The radio of claim 29 wherein the housing is substantially a C-shape.

31. The radio of claim 30 wherein the housing is a semi-flexible material.

32. The radio of claim 31 wherein when the radio is positioned for listening, the housing substantially conforms to a shape of the pinna of the listener's ear.

33. The radio of claim 32 wherein when the radio is positioned for listening the housing extends below the listener's ear.

34. The radio of claim 29 further comprising a support and a microphone, the support extending from the housing and configured so that the microphone is positioned in front of the listeners mouth.

35. The radio of claim 29 wherein the speaker is configured to fit substantially in a concha of the listener's ear.

36. The radio of claim 29 wherein the speaker is rotatable so that the speaker is capable of directing sounds into the ear canal when worn on either ear of a listener.

37. The radio of claim 29 further comprising a flexible connector connected to the speaker and the housing.

38. A communication device comprising:

a speaker configured to direct sounds towards an ear canal of a listener's ear; and  
a housing fixedly connected to the speaker, the housing configured to be substantially  
supported by a pinna of the listener's ear and containing substantially all other components  
5 of the communication device other than the speaker.

39. The communication device of claim 38 wherein the device is used in  
promotion of a predetermined broadcast.

40. The communication device of claim 38 wherein the all other components  
comprises a variable frequency tuner and a tuned frequency of the tuner is adjustable by a  
listener.

41. The communication device of claim 38 wherein the all other components  
comprises a memory storing a recording associated with the predetermined broadcast.

42. The communication device of claim 38 further comprising indicia associated  
with the predetermined broadcast.

43. The communication device of claim 38 further comprising indicia associated  
with an advertiser of the predetermined broadcast.

44. The communication device of claim 38 further comprising indicia associated  
with a sponsor of the predetermined broadcast.

45. The communication device of claim 38 wherein the communication device is  
a digital recording player and the all other components comprising a memory for storing a

digital recording and a digital audio processor for producing an audio signal of the digital recording.

46. The digital recording player of claim 45 wherein the memory is a RAM.

47. The digital recording player of claim 45 wherein the memory is a ROM.

48. The digital recording player of claim 45 further comprising an input for receiving the digital recording.

49. The digital recording player of claim 45 further comprising indicia associated with the digital recording.

50. A system for providing a tour of an area, the area having points of interest, the system comprising:

a plurality of infrared transmitters located at points of interest, each transmitter transmitting an audio communication associated with its point of interest; and

a plurality of infrared portable communication devices for receiving the transmitted infrared audio communications and for converting the received audio communication into an audio signal; whereby a user of the communication device hears the audio communication.

51. The system of claim 50 wherein the infrared communication devices have a speaker configured to direct sounds towards an ear canal of a listener's ear and a housing fixedly connected to the speaker, the housing configured to be substantially supported by a pinna of the listener's ear and containing the infrared receiver.

52. The system of claim 50 wherein the communication devices have indicia associated with the toured area.

53. The system of claim 50 wherein the toured area is a museum and the points of interest are art in the museum.

54. The system of claim 50 wherein the toured area is an outdoor area and the points of interest are sites within the outdoor area.

55. An automated system for communicating with individuals carrying portable receivers, the system comprising:

a processor for generating commands in an audio format;

a transmitter for transmitting the commands; and

the portable receivers for receiving the transmitted commands and producing an audio signal of the command.

56. The automated system of claim 55 wherein the individuals are divided into groups, each group has an associated frequency, the individuals in each of the groups have receivers set to receive signals over that group's frequency, the processor for associating each command for a group with that group's frequency and the transmitter transmitting each command over that command's frequency.

57. An automated system compatible with an existing ordering system, individuals performing order tasks using portable receivers, the automated system comprising:

the existing ordering system producing orders in an electronic format;

a processor having middleware for converting the produced orders into an audio format;



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